

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 11966 071234Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 STR-07
ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-20 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15
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R 071113Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3230
INFO USDOC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 11966

DEPT PLEASE PASS USBURMINES, USGS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EMIN ETRD IN
SUBJECT: GOI LIBERALIZES BARITE EXPORTS

REF: NEW DELHI A-146

1. THE EXPORT OF BARITE (LUMP AND POWDER) LARGELY USED IN OIL
EXPLORATION, HAS BEEN "DECANALIZED", I.E. NO LONGER RESTRICTED
TO EXPORT BY GOI ENTITIES, AND EXPORT OF LUMP BARITE IS NOW
PERMITTED. ACCORDING TO LATEST GOI EXPORT POLICY, PRIVATE MINE
OWNERS HOLDING LEASES AS OF MARCH 31, 1978 ARE NOW PERMITTED
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TO EXPORT BARITE IN ADDITION TO THE GOI MINERALS AND METALS
TRADING CORPORATION LTD. (MMTC). WHILE THE EXPORT LIMITATION
OF 200,000 METRIC TONS (MT) PER ANNUM HAS BEEN LIFTED, EXPORTS
BY PRIVATE OWNERS ARE NOT TO EXCEED THEIR OWN PRODUCTION. THE
POLICY NOW PERMITS THE EXPORT OF LUMP ORE EXCEPT TO MIDDLE EAST
COUNTRIES WHERE AN EXPORT RATIO OF 80 PERCENT POWDER TO 20
PERCENT LUMP IS REQUIRED.

2. MINIMUM FOB EXPORT PRICES HAVE BEEN FIXED BY THE GOI AT DOLS 57 PER MT FOR BARITE POWDER, DOLS37 PER MT FOR LUMP, AND DOLS63 PER MT FOR BARITE POWDER IN CONTAINERIZED FORM. ALL EXPORTS ARE REPORTED TO CONTAIN A MINIMUM OF 92 PERCENT BARIUM SULPHATE AND TO HAVE A MINIMUM SPECIFIC GRAVITY OF 4.20

3. BASED ON INDIA'S ANNUAL REPORTED BARITE PRODUCTION CAPABILITY OF ROUGHLY 400,000 MT AND A DOMESTIC DEMAND OF 100,000 MT, THE COUNTRY'S ANNUAL EXPORT POTENTIAL IS ABOUT 300,000 MT. EXPORTS DURING 1977-78 AMOUNTED TO 232,000 MT, UP FROM 153,000 MT IN 1976-77. THE MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES CONTINUE TO DOMINATE THE MARKET FOR INDIAN BARITE WITH IRAN, IRAQ AND UAE ACCOUNTING FOR ROUGHLY 90 PERCENT OF EXPORTS. MMTC HAS ALSO RECENTLY CONCLUDED SALE OF 100,000 MT OF LUMP ORE WITH ASSOCIATED METALS AND MINERALS, NEW YORK FOR DELIVERY BY MARCH 1979.

4. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS INTERESTED U.S. IMPORTERS OF BARITES CONTACT MMTC, NEW DELHI OR THE ANDHRA PRADESH STATE MINING CORPORATION, HYDERABAD, WHICH SUPPLIES ABOUT 50 PERCENT OF BARITE FOR EXPORT.
GOHEEN

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